

To: Blumenfeld, Jared[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV]
Cc: Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]
From: Fritz, Matthew
Sent: Thur 8/20/2015 2:47:47 AM
Subject: Re: Latest

Looks good to me.

On Aug 19, 2015, at 10:46 PM, Blumenfeld, Jared <BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV> wrote:

Only area of concern is saying NN may open river as early as this weekend but president did say it!

EPA Data Shows Water Quality in San Juan River in the Navajo Nation Back to Pre-Event Levels

DURANGO, CO – Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) surface water data collected following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine release, San Juan River water quality in Navajo Nation has returned to pre-release conditions. This determination is based on a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA's sampling point near Hogback, N.M.

Water quality has now returned to levels measured before the release entered the Navajo Nation.

Given that river water has returned to pre-release conditions, Friday August 21, will be the last day for **EPA** water deliveries for agricultural use on the Navajo Nation.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had a productive phone conversation on August 19 to review water quality data. **Based on that conversation the President indicated that the Navajo Nation may re-open the San Juan River for irrigation purposes as soon as this weekend.**

EPA will work closely with the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River is implemented. **In addition, EPA is positioned to provide technical assistance in flushing irrigation ditches on the Navajo Nation.**

Water and sediments from the mine were last observed at Nenahnezad, N.M., east of Hogback, N.M., on August 8, 2015.

For more information on EPA's response to the Gold King Mine release, please visit: www.epa.gov/goldkingmine

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